

GOVERNING BODY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201-2483, U.S.A.

December 30, 2015

TO ALL SPECIAL FULL-TIME SERVANTS IN THE FIELD

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We appreciate your zeal and fine example. Many of you have willingly accepted assignments that are quite challenging, such as serving in economically depressed areas or in parts of the world where there is civil strife. Others have accepted the challenge of adapting to a different culture and climate or learning a new language. These assignments require personal sacrifices, but you have certainly shown that your love for God and neighbor outweighs your concern for personal comforts and preferences.—Matt. 19:29; Mark 12:29-31.

Jehovah's blessing is evident on the work you have done during the past year. Many have helped to organize preaching activities in territories that have not received a witness, such as in indigenous and foreign-language territories. One branch office reports that as a result of the fine work of special pioneers who are involved in harbor witnessing, over 2,000 individuals who received literature have expressed interest in learning more about the Bible. All of you have stabilized and strengthened congregations by giving practical training to publishers, helping them to cultivate interest and start Bible studies. Because of your encouragement, many publishers are having a greater share in working business territory and in witnessing by telephone and in public places. Additionally, many publishers have been motivated to enter the regular pioneer work. As we meditate on these and many other blessings, we are moved to give thanks to Jehovah.—Ps. 106:1; 116:12.

Even though the ranks of temporary special pioneers and special pioneers are being reduced, you can be assured that this is not an indication that the work is slowing down. (Isa. 60:22) The 2015 world report indicates that more than a quarter of a million new disciples joined us in true worship last year! (Mic. 4:2) Nearly ten million Bible studies are being conducted each month. Please continue to make it your goal to assist Bible students to progress to the point of dedication and baptism.—Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:41, 42.

If you will soon be taking up the regular pioneer service, you can be confident that Jehovah will continue to bless your work and to use you in a mighty way. All of us do well to reflect on the fine example of the apostle Paul. Although he experienced many changes during his theocratic career, he found reasons to rejoice. For example, he saw evidence of Jehovah's blessing on his work—how God helped him fulfill each assignment and teach many others the truth. No doubt, you also have personally seen evidence of Jehovah's blessing on your work.—Acts 16:13-15; 2 Cor. 3:1-3.

Your specific assignment, whatever it may be, should never overshadow the privilege you have of serving as one of Jehovah's fellow workers. (1 Cor. 3:9) While each assignment we receive from Jehovah brings us great joy, we should remember that assignments often have a beginning and an end. As you continue serving Jehovah during these last days, be resolved to work whole-souled and to find joy in whatever you are asked to do. (Col. 3:23, 24) Jehovah is directing the work, and we encourage you brothers and sisters to stay close to him and his organization. Continue to do your utmost in serving Jehovah. (2 Tim. 2:15) The Governing Body is grateful for all you have done and will yet do. We know that you will keep up the pace, and we love you for it.

May Jehovah continue to bless you in accord with the spirit you show.—2 Tim. 4:22.

Your brothers,

Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses